13th Circuit Court: Family Division & Probate Court Volunteers

280 Washington St., STE B150, Traverse City MI 49684

January/February 2021 Volume 50, Issue 1 Jennifer Weber, Program Manager 922-4828, jweber@gtcountymi.gov Laura Shumate, Learning Partners 922-4419, Ishumate@gtcountymi.gov Kathy Nixon, Office Specialist 922-4827, knixon@gtcountymi.gov pcv@gtcountymi.gov



We have decided to acknowledge one of our outstanding volunteers every quarter. We appreciate everything everyone does for the Court and would like to brag about the fine work being done, even in these challenging times. Please join us in congratulating our first Volunteer of the Quarter,

SUE SCHMIDT



Sue has been volunteering for the Court since 1975! She has done it all and continues to go above and beyond during this difficult time. Sue has learned her way around the virtual world and has been completing Adult Guardianship Reviews right and left! Sue is always ready to help out where needed. Sue has taken several of our newer volunteers under her wing and showed them the art of doing guardianship reviews.

Thank you Sue for ALL you do!

thank you!



Ms. Kristyn Brendel, our new Family Court Administrator!



Kristyn graduated from Central Michigan University in 2011 earning her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Psychology. From there, she attended Thomas M. Cooley Law School and earned her Juris Doctor in 2014. After graduation from law school, Kristyn moved to the Traverse City area to be closer to her family and friends. Kristyn became a volunteer with Probate & Family Court Volunteer Services assisting the probate department with annual accountings before accepting the position of Judicial Assistant for Judge Stanton in 2016. Kristyn is now very thrilled to have the opportunity to work as the Family Court Administrator, a position she accepted in January 2021 after Kris Randall retired. Kristyn loves spending time with her fiancé, Brandon, and their 18-month-old son, Andrew. She also loves reading mystery books, shopping downtown Traverse City, and exploring all of the wonderful outdoor activities this area has to offer.

Learning Partners



Grand Traverse County Probate & Family Court Volunteer Services We still have some Learning Partners matched with students, even though we are not meeting face-to-face. Calls, emails, and US Mail has helped some keep in touch.

Neither TCAPS nor our Courts are allowing in-person meetings due to COVID-19. At this point, we are looking forward to a possible Summer Activity, and hoping for a full re-start in the Fall.

Thank you, Volunteers, for all of your efforts, and for those on "stand by"!



While 2020 brought uncertainty to everything, our CASA cases were no exception. Since CASA volunteers were not able to meet in person, they performed Court Appointed Special Advocates their case duties virtually. At this time, those with current cases are continuing to do what they

can virtually and have adapted phenomenally. We're hopeful to plan a virtual training soon as things slowly begin to open back up. Thank to our CASA volunteers who have hung in there through this uncertain time!



webinars to attend on a monthly basis. They will be emailed to you as they becoming available.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



ACCOUNTING ASSISTANCE: Probate Court is in need of volunteers to assist people in completing annual accounts and occasionally annual guardianship reports. This would entail having knowledge of finances, calculation of interest, using spreadsheets to tally expenses, the completion of court forms etc. Training and support will be provided. This is not a long term commitment, reports are completed case by case. Please let us know if you are interested and would like to take the training. 231-922-4827

GUARDIANSHIP REVIEWERS for Adults and Minors: These state-mandated reviews focus on whether the conditions that existed requiring guardianship are still present, as well as to determine if the person's needs are being met. Volunteers fill out a report of their findings and return it to our office. Due to COVID-19 Guardianship Reviews are being done virtually. Zoom Meetings can be scheduled through our office or if you prefer to schedule your own virtual meeting you can. Please call for more information 231-922-4827

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	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FERRIARY
<u>NOVEMBER</u>	Sue Schmidt	Caroline Hirth	FEBRUARY Donna Thoma
Art Gibson	Mary Meernik	Katy Ramsdell	Diane Scrivo
Carla Bloom	Kathy Wiejaczka	Henry TenBrink	Victor Dinsmoore
Steve St. Germain	Thad Saur	JoEllen Evans	John Roeser
Rob Gray	Jane Becker	Maswe Hennrick	Dana Boals
Kathy Tahtinen	Bill Vaillancourt	Caron Alpers	Matt Service
		Rose Coe	

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE 280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684 231-922-4827

Or Current Resident